

Amendments to the Specification:

The applicant respectfully requests that, before formally examining the application identified above, the Examiner accept the enclosed substitute specification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.125. The applicant believes that the substitute specification will facilitate processing of the application in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 608.01(q) and asserts that it complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.52. Although it makes no substantive changes, the substitute specification is submitted to conform this case to the formal requirements and long-established formal standards of U.S. Patent and Trademark Office practice, and to provide improved idiom and better grammatical form.

Also enclosed and submitted is a marked-up copy which shows the portions of the original specification which are being added and deleted.

STATEMENT

The undersigned, an attorney registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, hereby states that the enclosed substitute specification contains no new matter and includes the same changes as are indicated in the marked-up copy of the original specification showing additions and deletions.

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~Compact compact tripod (1) including at least three legs (2) converging in a spider (3) to which the legs (2) are hinged at one end through corresponding hinge means (13) and counter means (15), and a support (5) for a head (6) mounted in the ~~said~~ spider (3) in a position such that the ~~said~~ support (5) projects from the ~~said~~ spider (3) on the a side opposite the ~~said~~ legs (2) when the ~~said~~ tripod (1) is open in an operating position, and in which ~~said~~ hinge means (13) and counter means (15) are designed to allow the legs (2) to be folded back from that part of the ~~said~~ support (5) when the ~~said~~ tripod (1) is closed in a non-operating position, ~~characterized in that and the~~ said hinge means (13) and counter means (15) comprise toothed means (27,28) and corresponding stop means for the ~~said~~ toothed means (27,28) which are capable of interacting together to limit the extent by which the ~~said~~ legs (2) open with respect to the ~~said~~ spider (3).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Tripod (1)~~ The tripod according to Claim 1 in which the ~~said~~ hinge means (13) and counter means (15) are designed to permit relative rotation between the legs (2) and the spider (3) through an angle of 90° or more.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Tripod (1)~~ The tripod according to Claim 2 in which the ~~said~~ hinge means (13) and counter means (15) are designed to allow relative rotation between the legs (2) and spider (3) through an angle of between 90° and approximately 180°.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Tripod (1)~~ The tripod according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the toothed means (27,28) comprise a plurality of teeth (27,28) angularly offset with respect to each other on ~~a~~ the hinge ~~means~~ sleeve (13) of one piece with the ~~said~~ spider, (3) the hinge means being a hinge sleeve, and the ~~said~~ stop means comprise a lever (25) with a shoulder (33) which can be moved on the leg (2) into positions such that it ~~interferes selectively abutting~~ abuts against one of the said teeth (27,28) to limit the angle through which the ~~said~~ leg opens.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Tripod (1)~~ The tripod according to Claim 4 in which the ~~said~~ teeth (27,28) are positioned on projections coaxial with the ~~said~~ hinge sleeve (13).

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Tripod (1)~~The tripod according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~ in which a free length (29) is provided on the ~~said hinge sleeve (13)~~ which does not interfere with the ~~said stop means~~ so that when the ~~said stop means~~ are positioned on the ~~said free length (29)~~ the ~~said legs (2)~~ can be folded back between the operating position and the non-operating position.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Tripod (1)~~The tripod according to ~~one or more of claims 4-6~~claim 4 in which the ~~said lever (25)~~ is provided with an operating appendage (30) which is accessible from the side opposite the spider (3) when the legs (2) are in the operating position.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Tripod (1)~~The tripod according to ~~one or more of claims 4-7~~claim 4 in which the lever (25) is resiliently stressed towards a position in which it engages with a tooth (27) distance from the ~~said free length (29)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Tripod (1)~~The tripod according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~claim 1 in which the ~~said support (5)~~ is mounted on a column (4) which is movably engaged in the ~~said spider (3)~~ in an adjustable manner.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Tripod (1)~~The tripod according to claim 9 in which said head, (6) fitted to the said support, (5) is provided with a plate (7) which can be orientated substantially at right angles with respect to ~~the~~an axis of the column (4) when the tripod (1) is closed in the non-operating position.

11. (New) The tripod according to claim 2, in which the toothed means comprise a plurality of teeth angularly offset with respect to each other on the hinge means of one piece with the spider, the hinge means being a hinge sleeve, and the stop means comprise a lever with a shoulder which can be moved on the leg into positions such that it selectively abuts against one of the teeth to limit the angle through which the leg opens.

12. (New) The tripod according to claim 3, in which the toothed means comprise a plurality of teeth angularly offset with respect to each other on the hinge means of one piece with the spider, the hinge means being a hinge sleeve, and the stop means comprise a lever with a shoulder which can be moved on the leg into positions such that it selectively abuts

against one of the teeth to limit the angle through which the leg opens.

13. (New) The tripod according to claim 5 in which a free length is provided on the hinge sleeve which does not interfere with the stop means so that when the stop means are positioned on the free length the legs can be folded back between the operating position and the non-operating position.

14. (New) The tripod according to claim 5 in which the lever is provided with an operating appendage which is accessible from the side opposite the spider when the legs are in the operating position.

15. (New) The tripod according to claim 6 in which the lever is provided with an operating appendage which is accessible from the side opposite the spider when the legs are in the operating position.

16. (New) The tripod according to claim 5 in which the lever is resiliently stressed towards a position in which it engages with a tooth distance from the free length.

17. (New) The tripod according to claim 6 in which the lever is resiliently stressed towards a position in which it engages with a tooth distance from the free length.

18. (New) The tripod according to claim 7 in which the lever is resiliently stressed towards a position in which it engages with a tooth distance from the free length.

19. (New) The tripod according to claim 2 in which the support is mounted on a column which is movably engaged in the spider in an adjustable manner.

20. (New) The tripod according to claim 3 in which the support is mounted on a column which is movably engaged in the spider in an adjustable manner.